

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01572 021344Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241

S E C R E T JIDDA 1572

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EXDIS

FOR NEA - SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, YS, US
SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH PDRY

REF: STATE 047029

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY MANSOURI ON FEB. 28, DCM RAISED QUESTION OF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PDRY AND USG. DCM MENTIONED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT QUESTION WAS NOW WITH KING, WHO WOULD DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO ALTER SAG'S PRESENT REQUEST TO USG. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FIREIGN MINISTER SAUD HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED USG NOT TO PROCEED WITH RENEWAL OF RELATIONS PENDING SAG REAPPRAISAL OF SITUATION IN PDRY.

2. MANSOURI SAID THAT SAG IS NOW PESSIMISTIC OVER TREND OF EVENTS IN PDRY. SAG BELIEVES THAT COMMUNISTS, WITH SOVIET SUPPORT, ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR POWER AND THAT RUBAYI ALI MAY SOON BE PUSHED ASIDE. MANSOURI EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT OUTCOME MIGHT NOT BECOME
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APPARENT UNTIL JUNE. IN MEANTIME, MANSOURI SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT USG WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WHILE COMMUNISTS WERE GAINING STRENGTH.

3. DCM ASKED IF THIS WAS THE OFFICIAL SAG POSITION OR MANSOURI'S PERSONAL VIEWS. MANSOURI SAID THAT OFFICIAL SAG POSITION WAS STILL AS EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN

MINISTER AND WOULD REMAIN SO UNTIL USG RECEIVED A FURTHER OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE CONTRARY. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT USG MIGHT NOT RECEIVE A FURTHER OFFICIAL RESPONSE UNTIL THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED WITHIN PDRY.

4. MANSOURI THEN SAID THAT SAG WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF REASSESSING ITS WON RELATIONS WITH PDRY. WHILE FUTURE LOOKED DARK, THERE WAS STILL SOME CHANCE THAT RUBAYI ALI WOULD FIND SOME SUPPORT WITHIN THE ARMY THAT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO FEND OFF THE COMMUNIST DRIVE FOR ABSOLUTE CONTROL. WEST

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